

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 08453 131255Z

51

ACTION EA-14

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SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6981

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: JCCIA PLENARY SESSION DECEMBER 13

BEGIN SUMMARY: PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, BUT AT A SNAIL'S PACE, AND ONLY ON MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS, AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF MEETINGS OF THE JCCIA. THE ATMOSPHERE REMAINS AMICABLE WITH NO POLEMICS OR PROPAGANDA. TODAY, THE SIZE OF SECURITY CONTINGENTS FOR THE JCCIA AND FOR JOINT POLICE/MILITARY PATROLS IN VIENTIANE WAS APPROVED. OTHERWISE, DELEGATES EXCHANGED IDEAS ON VARIOUS TOPICS SLATED FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION NEXT WEEK. THE LPF IS CONTROLLING THE LEISURELY PACE OF THE COMMITTEE BY DOMINATING ITS AGENDA AND PAPER WORK, AND EACH SIDE SEEMS TO BE MOSEYING ALONG IN A WAY CALCULATED TO AVOID BEARING THE ONUS FOR DELAY. END SUMMARY.

1. RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS TO JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA) HELD THREE-HOUR
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 08453 131255Z

REGULAR PLENARY SESSION THIS MORNING. AFTERWARDS, LPF

SPOKESMAN PHAO TOLD PRESS THAT DELEGATIONS HAD EXCHANGED IDEAS, BUT REACHED NO DECISIONS, ON FOLLOWING LIST OF TOPICS:

- (A) RELATIONS AMONG JCCIA/PGNU/JNPC.
- (B) PROCEDURES FOR NEUTRALIZING TWO CAPITALS, INCLUDING SECURITY FOR PGNU/JNPC PERSONNEL, TIMETABLE FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG (INCLUDING CRITERIA FOR NUMBER AND TYPES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO CAN REMAIN), RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOINT MILITARY/ POLICE PATROLS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TWO CAPITALS.
- (C) ENFORCEMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE -- IN THIS REGARD PHAO COMPLAINED OF RLG ATTACK AT VILLAGE OF MUONG PHOK WHICH HE LOCATED ON ROUTE 9 IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. PHAO ALSO COMPLAINED THAT RLG AUTHORITIES HAD SENT TROOPS LAST WEEK TO NEW POSITIONS NEAR BAN NA LUANG LPF BIVOUAC AREA IN LUANG PRABANG. PHAO DESCRIBED BOTH THESE ALLEGED MOVES AS "PROVOCATIONS."

2. RLG DELEGATION SPOKESMAN LANE PATTAMAVONG SAID TODAY'S SESSION AGREED THAT SECURITY DETAIL FOR JCCIA WOULD NUMBER 70 PERSONNEL FROM EACH SIDE. HE INDICATED THAT, IN ADDITION TO SUBCOMMITTEE'S FOR NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG, JCCIA WOULD ESTABLISH SUBORDINATE SUBCOMMITTEES AT DISTRICT (MUONG) LEVELS IN EACH CITY. SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR THESE DISTRICT COMMITTEES WOULD NUMBER 12 FROM EACH SIDE. FINALLY, LANE SAID TODAY'S MEETING HAD AGREED THAT JOINT PATROLS IN VIENTIANE WOULD CONSIST OF FIVE FROM EACH SIDE. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THESE FIVE-MAN DETAILS ARE TO COMPRISE TWO PERSONNEL FROM EACH SIDE'S JOINT POLICE FORCE CONTINGENT AND THREE FROM EACH SIDE'S PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALION.

3. LANE CONFIRMED PHAO'S STATEMENT THAT TODAY'S MEETING SERVED ONLY AS FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON SUBJECTS THAT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WILL ADDRESS IN DETAIL.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 08453 131255Z

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THE ALLEGED ATTACKS AT "MUONG PHOK" OR OF THE TROOP MOVE IN LUANG PRABANG MENTIONED BY PHAO.

WITH LPF DELEGATION CHIEF SOTH PHETRASY ABSENT IN SAM NEUA FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, LPF DELEGATION TODAY WAS PRESIDED BY DEPUTY CHIEF PADITH THIENGTHAM, WHO HAS NO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY. THE LPF IS NOT OBSTRUCTING OR EXPLOITING THE JCCIA MEETINGS FOR

PROPAGANDA PURPOSES BUT, BY CONTROLLING THE AGENDA
AND PREPARING THE BASIC WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR EACH
MEETING, IS OBVIOUSLY SETTING A LEISURELY PACE. THE
RLG CHARACTERISTICALLY ONLY WORKS AT SUCH A PACE, AND
HEADWAY IS THUS ONLY BEING MADE ON MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE
PROBLEMS. EACH SIDE APPEARS TO BE ANXIOUS TO AVOID
BEARING THE ONUS FOR DELAY. WHILE THE COMMUNIST SIDE
CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF DELAYING THE TALKS, IT CERTAINLY
IS DOING NOTHING TO MOVE THEM EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD THE
IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.
DEAN

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